

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) As per the information received from various export promotion councils and other bodies concerned, the share of exports of the small scale industries (SSI) in the total exports of the country during 2004-05 (latest available) was 34.38 per cent.

(b) Based on the results of the Third All India Census of registered small scale industries (SSI) and sample survey of unregistered SSIs for the reference year of 2001-02, the persons employed and value of investment in plant and machinery in the SSI sector in the country as at the end of March, 2006 (latest available) are estimated to be 294.91 lakh and Rs. 1,81, 423 crore respectively.

(c) and (d) The promotion and development of SSIs is primarily the responsibility of State Governments and Union Territory (UT) Administrations. To assist the States/UTs and supplement their efforts in this regard, the Central Government implements several schemes/programmes for promotion and development of SSIs. These include, *inter alia*, (i) facilitating availability of credit mainly through public sector banks/financial institutions, (ii) assistance for (1) technology upgradation, (2) obtaining ISO 9000/14001 certification, (3) marketing, (4) integrated infrastructural development, (5) comprehensive need-based development of clusters, etc., and (iii) entrepreneurship development.

Further, the Government has enacted the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development (MSMED) Act, 2006 to facilitate the promotion and development of micro, small and medium enterprises and enhancement of their competitiveness. The Act has come into effect from 2 October, 2006.

Campaign against tobacco products

*356. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has appointed any expert committee to study the impact of new rules on anti-tobacco legislation and to insist on out sized logos on cigarette and bidi packets;

(b) whether Government have recently received representations from Virginia Tobacco Growers Associations protesting against such unilateral orders against tobacco products;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Government have not called these associations for consultations; and

(d) the steps proposed to review the unilateral decision making process of Government?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (d) "The Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Bill" was enacted by Parliament in 2003. This Act was enacted based on the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resource Development, which considered various issues including the representations of Industry/Associations etc. The Act is applicable to all Tobacco Products. Among other provisions, the Act provides for mandatory depiction of statutory warning which includes skull and cross bones and other pictorial warning on all tobacco products.

As per the provisions of the Act, the Government has notified 'The Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Packaging and Labeling) Rules, 2006' on 5th July, 2006, relating to specified warnings, which include skull and cross bones and other pictorial warnings, that are required to be printed on tobacco products packs. The Rules would be implemented with effect from 1st February, 2007.

The Rules were framed after obtaining inputs and after holding discussion(s) with the industry/Associations. The Rules were also properly field tested for their positive public health impact before being notified. The Government has not appointed any Expert Committee to study the impact of new rules on anti-tobacco legislation as the Rules are yet to be implemented. No representations were received from Virginia Tobacco Growers Association.

National Agriculture Innovation Project

*357. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country has launched a Rs. 1170 crores World Bank